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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/781,823

02/12/2001

Sharad Mathur

13768.190

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47973

7590

02/03/2005

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EXAMINER

VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,823

Applicant(s)

MATHUR ET AL.

Examiner

Huyen Vo

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/12/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following invention is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a method for compressing the text message on a per semantic component basis to form a compressed message, which is classified under class 704, subclass 9.

Group II, claims 15-22, drawn to a method of parsing the embedded messages from the message body, which is classified under class 704, subclass 4.

Inventions of groups I and II are related as combination and sub-combination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the sub-combination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the sub-combination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the sub-combination as claimed because invention of group I does not require the specific steps in the method of parsing the embedded messages from the message body. The sub-combination of group II has separate utility such as language analysis ~~for~~ used in a natural language understanding systems.

During a telephone conversation with the applicant's attorney on 1/19/2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-14. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 15-22 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 11-12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Grefenstette (US 6289304).

4. Regarding claims 1, 11-12, and 14, Grefenstette discloses that in a computer system having access to a text message and a computer readable medium that contains a plurality of semantic components that may include, for example, one or more headers or a message body, a method for compressing the text message on a per semantic component basis to form a compressed message while maintaining a degree of human readability, the method comprising the following: an act of accessing the text message (*col. 6, lines 41-59*); an act of parsing the text message into the plurality of semantic components (*col. 7, lines 6-24*); and for at least some of the plurality of semantic components, performing the following: an act of identifying a compression method, if any, to be used when compressing the semantic component for inclusion in the compressed message (*col. 7, lines 25 to col. 8, lines 67*); and an act of including the

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compressed semantic component in the compressed message (*col. 7, lines 25 to col. 8, lines 67*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grefenstette (US 6289304).

7. Regarding claims 2-9, Grefenstette fails to specifically disclose a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the semantic component comprises a header field, a current message within a body of the text message, and an embedded message within the text message, and wherein the text message comprises an e-mail message, a task message, a meeting request message, a meeting reminder message, and a meeting summary message. However, Grefenstette does teach a text reduction/compression system used to process any text messages (*col. 6, lines 41-59*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to readily realize that the teaching of Grefenstette can be used to reduce/compress any text

messages mentioned above. The advantage of this is to enable the system of Grefenstette to reduce/compress/summarize text messages for the user.

8. Claims 10 and 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grefenstette (US 6289304) in view of Chen et al. (US 5850476).

9. Regarding claims 10 and 13, Grefenstette further discloses a method and a computer readable medium in accordance with claims 1 and 12, wherein the act of identifying a compression method comprises the following: an act of using a third set of compression rules that are at least as strict as the first set of compression rules, but more lenient than the second set of compression rules, to compress the text message (*col. 9, lines 43-67 or figure 7 shows 8 different levels of text reduction, wherein each level reduces a different amount of text*).

Grefenstette fails to disclose an act of determining the first character length of the text message if it was compressed using a first set of compression rules; an act of determining that the first character length is within a size limit for the compressed message; an act of determining the second character length of the text message if it was compressed using a second set of compression rules that are more lenient than the first set of compression rules; an act of determining that the second character length is not within the size limit for the compressed message.

However, Chen et al. teach an act of determining the first character length of the text message if it was compressed using a first set of compression rules; an act of

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determining that the first character length is within a size limit for the compressed message; an act of determining the second character length of the text message if it was compressed using a second set of compression rules that are more lenient than the first set of compression rules; an act of determining that the second character length is not within the size limit for the compressed message (*the operation of figure 11, if the message is a short message, a first compression is used, otherwise use a second compression, wherein each of the two compression methods uses a different set of compression rules*).

Since Grefenstette and Chen et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Grefenstette by incorporating the teaching of Chen et al. in order to generate a short summary of the text message while retaining the meaning of the original text message.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Withgott et al. (US 5384703) and Mase et al. (US 5978820) disclose a text reduction system that is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

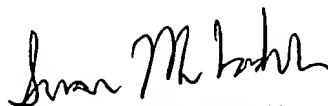
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

January 26, 2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER